

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES OF ADULT MALE FARM HANDS, 1931.

During the recent general collection of the Agricultural Statistics by the Police Officers, the Government Statist obtained from a number of the Officers a statement as to the employment of farm labor and the average wages paid. The following are the summarized results of the tabulation of the 80 Reports received.

Class of labor	With Keep						Without Keep					
	Lowest		Highest		Average		Lowest		Highest		Average	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
General Farm Hands	5	0	70	0	25	6	15	0	100	0	45	6
Harvest Machinery Drivers	5	0	80	0	40	6	20	0	100	0	55	0
Other Harvest Hands	5	0	70	0	32	0	25	0	80	0	49	0
Married Couples	10	0	90	0	42	0	25	0	105	0	59	6
Ploughmen	5	0	50	0	26	0	25	0	70	0	48	6
Milkers	10	0	50	0	26	0	20	0	60	0	47	6
Market Garden Hands	20	0	60	0	29	0	30	0	95	0	48	0

GENERAL FARM HANDS ONLY.

Division of State	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Central	5	0	70	0	25	0	20	0	100	0	46	0
Lower North	10	0	60	0	25	0	35	0	80	0	49	6
Upper North	15	0	45	0	27	0	30	0	70	0	43	0
South Eastern	20	0	70	0	33	6	20	0	80	0	50	0
Western	5	0	50	0	22	0	15	0	60	0	28	6
Murray Mallee	5	0	60	0	26	6	30	0	70	0	47	6

SUMMARY OF REMARKS FURNISHED ON REPORTS.

The supply of labor greatly exceeded the demand. Owing to low prices and many poor crops, numbers of farmers were not in the position to pay wages and worked their farms with their own families and helped each other. Even those farmers working large holdings employed as little assistance as possible. Many hands - mostly single young men - worked for their keep, with or without a few shillings for wages or a small share of the crop. This accounts for the lowness of the averages recorded above.

Statistical Office, ADELAIDE.  
19th June, 1931.

GOVERNMENT STATIST & C.